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A Book  
of  
Invocations

for Use  
throughout  
The Year

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Herman Paul  
Guhse



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To  
George F. Hall

In remembrance of  
his kind and gracious hos-  
pitality and friendship on  
the occasion of our first  
visit to Erie.

Herman Paul Gube

Erie, Pa.  
August 27, 1928.



A BOOK OF INVOCATIONS





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# A Book of Invocations

FOR USE THROUGHOUT  
THE YEAR

BY  
HERMAN PAUL GUHSÉ, M.A.  
*Minister of Olivet Presbyterian Church  
Utica, New York*

*With Introduction by*  
HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK, D.D.



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DEDICATED  
TO  
MY MOTHER

WHO FIRST TAUGHT ME TO PRAY





## Introduction

IT is a pleasure to commend this little book of invocations, and to hope for it a cordial and appreciative reception. It represents a movement in the Protestant churches full of significance for the future. There is bound to be a renaissance of beauty and dignity in our worship, and in no realm is that renaissance more needed than in our prayers.

This book should assist many at least to begin the public ministry of worship in a worthy way. Too often, we Protestant clergymen stroll into our conduct of the people's adoration with a shambling looseness of thought and speech utterly out of keeping with the spirit of reverence. Every such endeavour as this book represents to lift our corporate approach to God, out of crudity and carelessness into fineness of thought, reverence of heart, and beauty of form is to be welcomed.

HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK.

*New York City*





## *Preface*

THESE prayers, for the most part, were uttered in Olivet Presbyterian Church, Utica, and printed week by week in the bulletin of the church. They are now gathered into a volume with the hope that they may serve a larger audience. The limited number of printed invocations has given rise to the frequent inquiry by ministers as to where hints and helps may be found for the initial prayer in the service of worship. The frequent suggestion that I gather these invocations into a little volume, has made me dare to do so.

Whenever the prayer was worded in keeping with stated days and occasions, or preparatory to a given theme, the fact has been noted below the invocation.

H. P. G.

*Utica, New York*







OUR Father, Who art from everlasting to everlasting, by some whisper out of the infinite, teach us this day the meaning of time. We children of a day, beholding the sands of time flowing swiftly past our temporal abodes, crave for a deeper sense of Eternity. With blessed assurance, help us to lay hold upon the unshakable, abiding, ever-satisfying treasures of the unseen world of heavenly realities. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

*The New Year*



OUR Father, we praise Thee for the triumph of the best within us, this morning. We have caught a glimpse of higher reaches, have heard better voices, have followed nobler impulses. And thus we have companied unto the holy hill of the Lord, with its heavenly attractions. Here would we take sound council with one another, and with Thee. Grant us the glory of Thine only begotten Son, full of grace and beauty. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*



OUR Father, create within us a receptive mood. May this be a great, glad hour of insight and farsight when we, as blundering followers from afar, shall become eager disciples; aflame with the very Spirit of Jesus. Grant us such constancy and fortitude that on the morrow, when the daily wheels wear ruts in our souls, the subtle lure of temptation may not beguile us, and the harassing fears may find no fertile soil in our being. We beseech Thee that our lives may be mastered by Thy love, informed by Thy truth, and at last crowned in Thy likeness. We earnestly pray in the Name of Christ, our constant Guide. *Amen.*



OUR Father, the call and response of love has led us hither. Reveal Thyself to each of us, by some appeal of Thy grace, mercy, power and beauty. Prepare our minds for the discovery of more truth. Strengthen our hearts for the venture of greater faith. Disclose to us the glory of this divine fellowship; may it have such majestic command over us that we might pray for help, whilst we contemplate its possibilities. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Divine Disclosures*





OUR Father, our surest claim this morning is that we have all sinned, and fallen short of the mark of our high calling. Defeat is our constant foe. As prodigals from a far country, we have come to ourselves, and to Thee. Receive us generously and pardon us freely. Clothe us with the potent virtues of right living. Make us eager to learn, able to discern, and prepared to face the truth that alone can liberate our better self from the prison grip of sin, sickness and death. In Thine infinite mercy, O Lord, grant us consolation in sorrow, fortitude in trouble and courage in the dark. Help us to know that the inner life of the spirit transcends all outer limitations, and that there is a "realm of ends" which gives meaning to our tangled paths. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*



OUR Father, again we seek the quiet rest and soothing peace of the Sabbath day. Thou, Who hast set our uncertain years in the heart of Thy eternity, lift us above evil; overshadow us with courage and strength. Dispel our discords by the perfect harmony of divine truth, immortal love and enduring faith. And thus make us glad, as our lives are lifted to higher tablelands of sacred beauty and holy fellowship. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*



OUR Father, we would become as the child in our midst, that the reality and glory of Thy kingdom might glow all about us. We would approach heaven's portals in unspoiled naturalness, with honesty, purity and implicit faith in our hearts. Help us in this hour to share the things of Christ, that we, too, may take into our affections the least among the lowliest. Grant us Jesus' spirit as we reach hands across the sea. In His Name. *Amen.*

*Near East Sunday*



OUR Father, receive us into the gracious privilege of the holy sacramental season. Grant us hearts sincerely repentant, wills completely surrendered to Thine, and lives thrilling with vital forces dedicated to Thee. Enlarge the place of our living, enrich the quality of our spirit, release the hidden power of our soul, and grant that all our capacities may freely be marshalled in the whole-hearted confession, "Lord, Thou knowest I love Thee." In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Communion Sunday*



OUR Father, freely welcome us into Thy spacious tabernacles, "not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." May the realm of Thy Spirit claim us wholly in this cloistered hour. Amid the beauty of holiness, grant us the privilege to touch and handle things unseen. May we bathe our souls in the peace of this hour, the sympathy and friendliness of this company, the stillness of Thy sanctuary, and the holy hush of heaven itself. Bring into our hurried, trouble-ridden lives the mental poise and inner quietude of those who steadfastly walk with Thee. Bless us with rekindled devotions that may charge us with illustrious hope, profound faith, and contagious love. In the Master's Name. *Amen.*





OUR Father, as children with many needs and anxious hearts, we have taken our journey homeward. Thou dost welcome us for rest, and counsel, and strength, that we may be more courageous and determined to go forward. We have come to reason together in the sweet and generous company of lovers of the truth, and followers of Thy will. Make us sincerely unashamed and wisely bold in Thy Presence, and in the venture of life's more abundant to-morrow. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*The Soul's Homeland*



OUR Father, with humble and contrite spirit we enter the glorious portals of another holy season. Our needs are concrete; therefore our desires and expectations are definite, for Thy promises are sure, and Thou dost desire only our good. Graciously lead us into the divine mysteries of our Lord's Passion. Grant us patient endeavour and heartsearching devotion to follow Him in the journey toward the cross. Make each of us to know: "It was for me He died." In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*First Sunday In Lent*



OUR Father, in Whose family circle we have enjoyed a blessed season of friendship and love, receive and charge us with new duties on the threshold of another year. As the mystic shuttle of affection weaves from heart to heart, grant us inward peace, and outward fabric of godly living and holy service. Subdue our wills, command our faculties, enlist our powers by the reasonableness of truth, and the unfailing compulsion of love. May this mortal company and this earthly hour expand into an immortal fellowship in the setting of eternity. *Amen.*

*The Pastor's First Anniversary*



OUR Father, grant us power and grace to see the far horizons of this hour and place. In the company of truthseekers give us inward illumination and outward direction. Help us to break through our limitations and claim victorious life. Take to Thy heart the wounded and afflicted spirits; gladden the hearts of the joyless; quicken the minds of those sorely troubled; overshadow us all with rest and calm, and the healing touch of the great Physician. Make radiant the souls of us all by the glow of divine warmth, light and beauty, in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Far Horizons*



OUR Father, unbar the captive soul within our own prison-house of self. By the inner resolution of a divinely led will, and the spiritual fire burning in the deep regions of our soul, bid us rise and follow after Thee. In the fog of things may we discern Thee high and lifted up. Amid the din of things may we hear Thy voice, clear and commanding. Through the confusion of things, grant us wisdom to think Thy thoughts after Thee. Help us, with hearts heavily weighted, to cast our burdens upon the great Burden-bearer. In the face of every peril may we hear Jesus saying: "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." And thus regaled with the Spirit of deliverance, may we shun the brittle staff of self, and, defying every enslaving enemy, follow hard after the Christ of the full, free and victorious life. *Amen.*





OUR Father, the welcome Sabbath rest has led us into Thy vast empire of beauty and mystery. Here our noisy and restless lives are hushed amid Thy holiness. Here our troubled minds are calmed by Thy peace. Here our eyes look upon the far country of heavenly grace and charm; and our listening ears hear the sweet refrains of uncommon song,—the message of faith, and hope, and love. Here we anticipate the life when sin shall be no more. Lead us into paths of inner joy and abundant life, this hour and always. *Amen.*



OUR Father, we have taken our place among the glad multitude who hail the King of kings. Stir us, and our complacent city and land anew, because of His coming. Give us grace to cut from life the vital branches of sacrifice; and may our garments of plentiful things be cast upon the highway of His coming. Grant us depth of faith, and honesty of purpose to raise ever new standards of welcome to Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

*Palm Sunday*



OUR Father, gladly have we come to the mount that is called Olivet; here would we too make ready for the triumphant entry of our Master. Lead us into the secrets of gracious quiet and serene spiritual loveliness, that with joyful self-abandonment we may swell the chorus of Thy children who this day proclaim Jesus, anew, as Lord of lords and King of kings. *Amen.*

*Palm Sunday*



OUR Father, we are pilgrims in the midst of a great company of the heavy-hearted, and slow of foot, that winds its way to the throne of grace. In solemn memory we follow Jesus. They have taken away our Lord and nailed Him to the cross! Shut out from our souls, O God, all light save that which breaks about the green hill far away. Grant us to know, through mystic communion with Him who hangs between earth and sky, the transforming power of yon tree outside the city gate. Baptize us into Jesus' death, until His cross be woven into the fabric of our natures, and we order our whole lives in memory of Him. We humbly pray in the Name of our Saviour, Who was crucified for the sins of the world. *Amen.*

*Good Friday*



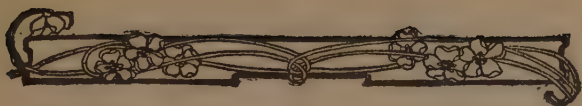
OUR Father, the sacred remembrance of Jesus Christ has drawn us into sacramental bonds. Here we would gather about the strong Son of God, amid the glory of His eternal strength and beauty. Here would we freely confess our sins, and prayerfully await Thy pardon, as our hearts are humbled and subdued by unbounded grace and love divine. Out of Thine abundant supply of heavenly treasures grant us perfect peace, complete pardon, unfailing faith, everlasting strength and infinite love. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Communion Sunday*



OUR Father, "The winter is past, the snow is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come." O Thou Son of Righteousness, Thou Power of new and eternal life, we hail Thee this Easter morn. Thou dost transform the winter skies of our inner life by the radiance of immortal love, perennial hope, and resurrection glory. Grant unto us the gifts that take the sting out of suffering, sorrow and death—beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, yea, the first fruits of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Easter Sunday*



OUR Father, we revel in the spaciousness of Thine all-embracing Kingdom. Take us, wayfarers, by the hand this hour, and lead us into new territory of divine glory. Lure us into the realization of the high calling and mighty prerogatives of disciples of Jesus. Cause us, as leaven, to expand; as light, to shine; as salt, to dissolve; as witnesses, to testify. Make our expanding usefulness the test of our enlargement of soul. May each new day see us boldly press forward into the frontiers of moral truth, over the plains of the commonplace, leaving markers of progress, up into the hill-country of spiritual adventure, discovering new abodes of beauty and happiness. Grant that this hour may "lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes" of our immortal tents. We pray in the Name of Jesus, Who, by the daring of His soul, charted and re-routed the very course of all humanity. *Amen.*



OUR Father, by Whose wisdom the meek are guided in judgment, and by Whose light the upright are led, grant us grace in all our doubts and waverings to earnestly seek Thy will. With singleness of purpose may we worship this hour, that Thy Spirit may guard us from pitfalls of error, from foolish choices and unworthy preferences. Chasten our motives at the source-spring of our lives, that our hearts may be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our God. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Steadying Life*





OUR Father, with the soft compulsion of Sabbath morn, and the gentle urge of Thy Spirit, we have come in our best estate. If ever the divinity within us has full and free reign over our unworthy lives, it is here, where Thou dost say: "Come now and let us reason together, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Help us to boldly accept this proffer and faithfully meet the conditions of Thy free gift. Grant us to know more of the infinite possibilities stored away in our lives, when released by the touch of Thy salvation, in the true and full acceptance of Thy will. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*



OUR Father, Who hast called us into the fellowship of Thy Son, draw us closer to Him in this hour of meditation and communion. May our hearts be open to every holy affection, and our minds ready to receive and cherish every sacred truth and serious impression. Extend our vision, deepen our loyalty, increase our faith, and baptize us anew with Thy own, divine love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*



OUR Father, Who knowest the secrets of our hearts, and givest power to them that are faint, look with favor upon all who worship here this day. Inspire those who set forth Thy praise, and grant that Thy Word may speak to all hearts. As we gather about the sacred table of holy memory, may we be drawn closer to our risen Lord, that he may endow us with new vision, charge us with greater power, use us more acceptably in the higher purposes of His Kingdom. We pray in the Name of Jesus, our Master. *Amen.*

*Communion Sunday*



OUR loving Father, with strong arms of protection and with a great heart of love hast Thou blessed us another week. Just now our lot has fallen in pleasant places, for this is none other than Thine abode; here would we see Thee face to face. Here do we tarry for rest, and strength, and courage, that we may journey on into the unknown tomorrow with steady footing, with high hopes, a great purpose and a sure faith. Grant us our sincere desire through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*



OUR Father, in Whose infinite knowledge are the hidden secrets of our lives, grant us, who are burdened with guilt, great confidence to draw very near unto Thee. Make us unafraid to expose our souls and reveal our behaviour to the divine scrutiny of Thine all-seeing eyes; and in the searching light and fierce truth which surround Thy Presence, may we submit ourselves to the judgment of divine love. Break, and mend our hearts again, by the confession of a broken and contrite spirit, and then by the consecrated purposefulness to attain unto righteousness, through a finer loyalty, in the uprightness of our hearts. We pray in the Name of our Redeemer, Who loved us while we were yet in sin, and gave Himself for us.  
*Amen.*

*Confession of Guilt*



OUR Father, Thou who hast granted Olivet many years of grace and blessings, we give Thee thanks for the span of time, with its wealth of spiritual riches. May we, this day, feel the sacred touch of holy memories. May we richly fellowship with those who have here built, long and well, at the Kingdom task. Enrich us in the discharge of our present-day duties, as we invest the heritage committed unto us. Enlarge our vision and stimulate our faith in the larger outlook of the morrow. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Fortieth Anniversary*



OUR Father, Who art the Pulse in each soul, as Thou art the Power behind every atom, quicken all that is good within us. Stimulate our faith; strengthen our hope, purify our love. By the stirring of the Holy Ghost, may we ask as men of old: "What must we do?" Impel us, O Lord, by the experience of Pentecost, "as of the rushing of mighty wind" and "tongues, like as of fire" deep, down in our souls, to go further, think more resolutely, venture more heartily, yield more generously to the emotions and necessities that comply with Thy will, and render Thy Kingdom nearer earth's happy day of complete redemption. We pray in Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Pentecost*



OUR Father, we rejoice in the society of the redeemed. Grant that we may fully sense the deep significance of this place and hour. May we be worthy of so great a company of those who claim the Christ as life's very Center and Summary. By the renewal of our minds help us now to seek the open road of high and heroic adventure, toward the goal of our hearts' desire. May we here move out toward a full grown man's estate in Christian experience. Bless and empower us with genuine and mature transformation of character,—replacing childhood's geography of salvation,—that the Spirit of Jesus may girt our creed, measure our orthodoxy, and summarize our claim of redemption. In the Saviour's Name. *Amen.*





OUR Father, Who art our Sabbath Rest, we would beseech Thee for the perfect peace of the inner life. We have laid aside the tools and attire of earthly toil that we may be clothed with the holy garments of righteousness and truth. Lift our worship to the heights of divine glory. Reveal to us the burning center of the Faith, that our whole being may be thrilled with unspeakable joy, amid heavenly attractions. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Perfect Peace*



OUR Father, we are in search of "the city which hath the foundations, whose Builder and Maker" Thou art. The city of man we know,—its dust, its din, its rush, its strife, its struggle, its poverty, its sins which are many, and its earthly good which is all too little and too brief. Inspire our better self to desire that other city which hath "many mansions," "which lieth four-square," and where "they shall not hurt nor destroy in all God's holy mountain." May the bejewelled poetry and haunting symbolism which bring to us the vision of the New Jerusalem, increasingly become the prose of life that shall guide our aspirations, direct our energies and give us great zeal for Thy Kingdom. Make us worthy citizens, here and now, of that realm which will at last and for always be the homeland of Thy children. For Thy Name's sake. *Amen.*

*The City of God*



OUR Father, varied are Thy calls that surely lead us to Thee, and set our feet upon life's upper paths, amid exalted bliss. We praise Thee for hallowed moments, and holy places, and sacred bonds. This morning the tender and loving call of mother sends forth its rapturous note. By everything that is divine and undying,—in the wide sweep and intimate grip of motherland,—enkindle our minds, warm our hearts, flood our souls, and quicken the spiritual pulse of our better natures. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Mother's Day*



OUR Father, accept us in the quest of the sweet secret of the narrow way. May the searching mind find the truth that alone can make us free. May the hunger of the soul discover the bread of heaven and the water of life, that we may want no more. May the longings of heavy hearts be stilled and satisfied in the all-knowing love, which is our sure refuge. May our wandering feet, in the uncertain paths of this world, happily discover the rock that is higher than we. May our eager eyes gratefully behold the mountain from whence cometh our help. Take us into Thy keeping, O Lord, that after this hour of contact and friendship with Thee, we may venture forth strong, virile, unshakably hopeful, bearing a sheaf of great happiness in our hearts. We pray in Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Divine Security*



OUR Father, we have walked the common ways and companioned with mortal men another week. This hour we would tarry in heavenly places and hold converse with Thee. Help us to cease from things, and men, and self, that the eternal silences may instruct us. May we hear Thy divine voice, be instructed by Thy divine truth, bow obediently to Thy will, and submit gladly to the edicts of Thy divine judgment. We pray in Jesus' Name. *Amen.*



OUR Father, instruct us this hour in the enduring qualities of Thy Kingdom. May we know that in Thy providence nothing good is perishable, that in Thy economy, nothing worthy is lost. Teach us the comforting truth that fine things cannot come to an end, even though they seem to pass; that honest faith, steadfast hope, holy love, heart communions, daring insights, brave loyalties do not die; that divine light and power will shine on, and energize; that a cosmos cannot have chaos for a crown; that Thou, who hast made man with endless longings and immeasurable capacities, wilt not throw Him to the void. Move back our limited horizons, O God, that we may now and always make more of life's enduring values, in exalted virtues, noble desires, righteous purposes and holy motives. We pray in the Name of Jesus, whose scale of life was none less than the measure of eternity. *Amen.*

*Enduring Values*



OUR Father, Who hast given song to the very spheres, and set harmony in the midst of all Thy glorious creation, stir us by the mighty orchestration of spiritual refrains. Sweep hard over every harpspring of our nature; create melody in every quiet nook of our hearts; trumpet the strange, sweet music of peace into every surging ocean of our souls. Attune our whole lives to the uppermost notes of joy, as Thy Spirit plays on the frail and discordant lute of our being. And thus send us out into the common walk of duty and of living,—so harsh and strident with the medley of men's strife,—having a new song upon our lips, and vibrating to the air of heavenly symphonies. We pray in the Name of Him who was with Thee when the morning stars first sang together. *Amen.*

*Soul Harmony*



OUR Father, we thank Thee for this day of holy memories, for this place of divine glory, and for this hour of sacred fellowship, with both the seen and the unseen.

By the gracious gift of Thy Spirit, incline our ears unto the wisdom of Thy law, and the eternal truth of the Gospel of our Christ. May our hearts, made tender by the glow of life's rehearsals in times of war, yearn for the peace which passeth all understanding, the perfect peace which the world cannot give, nor take from us. Comfort us once more with the assurance of immortality, through Christ, our living Lord. *Amen.*

*Memorial Sunday*





OUR Father, another week have we diligently plied our earthly tasks, amid familiar scenes, on the common plane. This morning we would ascend into hill country of heavenly places. We would rise above toil to worship; above things to Thee. We seek the heights where the pure air is charged with spiritual fragrance, and the far vision is extended by divine aspirations; where the clear light penetrates into the uncertain places of our troubled hearts, and the invigorating winds blow upon our feeble efforts. Lead us into this experience, through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*



OUR Father, in Whose love and compassion we all have found the home-hearth of our souls, make us childlike once more, in the highest and holiest sense of that state. May our spirits thrill with unspoilt youthfulness. May we rehearse the old truth with new insight that the child is the immortal symbol of Thy Kingdom. Forbid that we should accept these children and fail to discern the clouds of glory that trail their entrance into our hearts, our homes, our church. Make us eager to seek out the riches untold in these little ones. Guide us in the finer mastery of that art which destiny has entrusted to us, to lead their feet on the upper trail of life, that is bounded and guarded by Thy grace. We pray in the Name of the children's dearest Friend, even Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Children's Day*



OUR Father, make us captives this hour, by the impulse of that free and loving spirit which cries out: "Abba Father."

Lift us into the glad and inspiring companionship of Christ, our Master, by Whom we have consciously become sons and daughters of Thee, the true and living God.

Awaken our minds to the understanding of the Truth. Make our feet willing to walk in the Way. Grant us more vision of the Light. Quicken our whole being with the Life which is abundant and eternal. We pray in the Name of Him Who is mightiest among the lowly, and lowliest among the mighty. *Amen.*



OUR Father, we give thanks for the cradle and rock of our liberty. For all that is worthy and noble in the fair name and broad fame of America we rejoice. Take us to Thy heart on this day of commemoration, that we may be mindful of the divine providences upon which the highways of the past have been built. May we assuredly believe that the nation which knows its God is alone, enduringly strong. Thou who holdest our land in the hollow of Thy hand, pity us in our weaknesses, cleanse us from our sins, save us from pride, refine our gold (which is much and threatening.) Grant us power to see anew the commandments that secure our foundations, the wisdom that safeguards our government, the righteousness that protects our democracy, and the spirit that begets peace, here and in all the world. We pray in the Name of the Prince upon Whose shoulders is the government of all the universe. *Amen.*

*Independence Day*



OUR Father, we are met for solemn communion with Thee. Grant that we, like Thy servant of old, may be in the Spirit on the Lord's day. We come in deep humility, for Thou art high and exalted; we come in tender penitence, for the contrite heart is Thy only dwelling; we come with eager expectation, for Thou hast words of life, and with Thee are peace, and power, and all things abundant, both in this life and in that which is to come. Light the flame upon our heart's altar, call forth the incense of prayer, awaken the song of praise, and manifest Thyself to all. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

*On the Lord's Day*



OUR Father, we come into Thy courts with praise upon our lips, and joy within our hearts. Make us eager in our search, and daring in our approach unto Thee. Grant us the spirit of earnest and prevailing prayer, the consciousness of a living and achieving faith, the mood of steadfast and adventurous hope, the passion of victorious and unquenchable love. And so may the pilgrimage of this hour take us upon the high road of divine truth, guided by "the true Light, which lighteth every man." We make our prayer in Jesus' Name. *Amen.*



OUR Father, we have come to praise Thee in the congregation of the upright, and to make mention, one to another, of the surprizing discovery that sets our feet upon higher tablelands of living. Pierce us afresh with the realization that we are "bond fellows of reconciliation; while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." Fire our imagination with this: that "where sin abounded, grace did abound more exceedingly," that "we also might walk in newness of life." Help us to journey with assurance, knowing that "sin shall not have dominion over us, who are 'under grace'." Make us obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto we were delivered." Through Jesus Christ, who opened for us the new and perfect way. *Amen.*



OUR Father, visit us with Thy salvation; cleanse our minds and dwell therein; remove our faith from the shifting sand and set it upon the rock of ages; and though our feelings ebb and flow, grant us security of soul in Thy steadfast truth, and refuge from forebodings in the peace of Thy will. We pray in Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Fruits of Salvation*





OUR Father, who art the Brightness and Hope of faithful souls, cast about us, in these uncertain times, the warming rays of the Son of Righteousness. Fill the world with Thy glory, and show Thyself, by the radiance of Thine undying light, to all the children of earth, that every nation may seek Thy favor. Overrule the wrath of men, and the impotence of governments, turning their follies and weaknesses into songs of everlasting praise to Him Who shall yet "reign as Lord of lords, and King of kings." In Thy light may we and all peoples see the true Light "which lighteth every man unto the perfect day." In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Missionary Sunday*



OUR Father, like varied craft that ride the deep, we are come this morning. Some of us, in the dimensions of our soul-life, are tiny ships, and some majestic; some driven by inner power, deep down in the hull, others powerless and waiting wholly for the wind; some awkward and unsightly, others graceful and beautiful; some swift and mighty, others slow and frail; some laden with precious cargo, others with no merchandise; some outward bound, others nearing journey's end; some afloat and useful, with destination charted; and here and there a shattered wreck,—broken by the strong arms of the sea, helplessly beaten by wind and waves, captainless and lost. O Thou great Artificer of men's precious souls, fashion, equip, empower, grace and beautify our ships of life, that we may all be freighted some-whither, with perfect assurance and steady control. We pray in the name of the Captain of our Salvation. Amen.

*At the Sea Shore*



OUR Father, whilst we tarry at the summer sea, impress and instruct us with the unspoken messages of the wide waters. Help us to see life reflected in this restless, changing servant of Thy will. In the mirrored calm of the placid deep; in the gentle rhythm of the agitated waters, lapping on the still ledges; in the tangled tumult of wind-driven surges, beating their life out on the rugged rocks; or in the storm's assembled fleets of mountainous fury, whipping the surf and roaring its way to victory,— in all of these may we see the drama of mankind. Grant us a deep longing, O God, that the soul life within us may never get out of hand, but may ever be guided by the steadying purposes of Thy love. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*At the Sea Shore*



OUR Father, we have reveled in the exhilarating sea air another week, whilst listening to the steady murmur, or the roaring laughter, or the hissing wrath of the mighty deep. We thank Thee for the varied symphonies of the sea, and the rapture of its power. Wilt Thou not play upon the grand organ of our natures this hour, that deep may call unto deep; that under Thy hand we, too, may bring forth impressive minstrelsy to Thy praise and glory. May our cares be drowned amid the resurgent melodies of gladness, in the realization that the soul within us is deeper than the sea,—yea, more majestic in its sweep of power and glory. We pray through Christ, who has given us a new name, and “the power of an endless life” in His Kingdom. *Amen.*

*At the Sea Shore*



OUR Father, even as the oncoming ocean tide steals into every creek and inlet of the broken shore line, so do Thou surge into every atom of our being. Grant us high tides of refreshing power. May the spiritual bouyancy of our worship help us to rise above sad misgivings, dark bewilderments, hurtful musings. And when all Thy billows have gone over us, in the ebb and flow of grace abounding, may we be like the cleansed shore, newly washed by the unseen and mighty hands of the all-conquering tide. Redirect and vitalize the currents of our inner being, that in orderly movement we may fulfil Thy will. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*At the Sea Shore*



OUR Father, Who art ever with us on the high seas of life, once more steady our frail craft on the wide expanse of our journey. Pilot our better self out into the far, open spaces, where the test of our creed shall be the degree of our faith and the measure of our endurance. Help us courageously to set our sails outward bound, where, in the ocean of Thy love, we may avoid the low-lying bars of temptation, the lurking reefs of doubt, the submerged derelicts of fear, and securely outride the storms that smite upon us. We pray in the Name of Him to Whom even the angry sea was obedient, Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

*At the Sea Shore*



OUR Father, we thank Thee for the glory of the mountains. Amid this lofty and ennobling solitude, impress us with the grandeur and might, the durability and towering heights of the mountain ranges. We reverently look upon their huge altars of rugged granite, and snow-topped, temple spires, and marvel at the silent messages that surge into our hearts, as we admire their majesty and vastness. O Maker of the mountain country, bid us stand in holy awe in the presence of our own, divine strength,—with the mastery over earthly creations, with purposes that sweep above the highest mountain tops, with fellowship that makes us one with Thee, and with “the power of an endless life.” Guide us this day amid the high ranges of our spiritual possibilities, through Jesus, our Master. Amen.

*Among the Mountains*



OUR Father, Creator of all the glorious life and beauty in nature, we thank Thee for the many and convincing wonders of the summer time. Evoke sweet praise from our lips, and profound reverence in our hearts as we ponder the mysteries of garden, field, orchard, woodland and the rolling hill country, with their wealth of color and teeming life. Thou, who dost bedeck the cold and lifeless earth with such garment of radiant splendour, and throw about it the aroma of sweet perfumes, clothe us with inner raiment of spotless white, and bring to flower in our natures the fine fruits of the Spirit. May the garden of our heart be redolent with generous purposes and noble deeds as Thou, the wise Gardener, dost awaken dormant energies, revive lost hope, restore vanished faith. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Summer*





OUR Father, Who hast showered us with the magnificent gift of the summer time, we are humbled in the presence of such mighty appeal. We are surprised by its generosity, subdued by its power, awed by its beauty. How altogether unworthy we are of such a blessing! Renew in us the response of those who are quickened into a startling realization of how good and great and loving Thou art. As the warm winds breathe on the fruitful soil and prosper its vegetation, so do Thou cause love, truth and righteousness to spring forth in the desolate and barren places of our lives. As the gentle dews, and rains, and sunshine awaken and quicken life, so do Thou refresh our spirits by the outpouring of divine power upon every faithful worshipper. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Summer*



OUR Father, Who art the Master-key on the ring of our choicest friendships, unlock our hearts with the key of love. As we bring Thee our morning praise, make us messengers "whose feet are beautiful upon the mountain" in the service of divine friendship. May we richly company with Jesus, Our Master, as He imparts to us the way of life, to qualify our best assets with infinite worth and utility. Induct us into the profound and intimate mysteries of love divine, so that the cable of our mortal life may be reinforced with the enduring strands of Thy friendship. "As in water face answereth to face," so may Jesus' love-life be reflected in our associations, one with another. And thus may we drink of the springs of mutual trust, heart-warming confidences, and uncommon loyalties in the things of the Spirit. We pray in the Name of the Friend of friends. *Amen.*

*Friendship*



OUR Father, Who art perfect and all in all, we have come in search of the better and larger things of life. Grant us such strength of timber, such fiber of soul, that only the best of all things shall engage our efforts in the pursuit of the highest good. Forbid that we should tarry with paupers and failures, when we may company with princes and conquerors; that we may not grovel in the miasmatic lowlands when we may occupy high terraces of healthful, mountain outlook; that our energies may not be spent in vain pursuits, whilst we might seek first Thy Kingdom. Make all the roadways of our heart clean as the light, open as the day, safe as the truth, that life's superlatives of good may find us receptive and prepared. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Life's Superlatives*



OUR Father, we have come to seek Thee. Long ages and many lives have helped to prepare this path of aspiration and worship; and by many providences of Thy hand and heart of love have we come thither. Grant that by Thy grace we may, this hour, be wooed into the midst of glowing realities, that our minds may be enlightened, our hearts cheered, and our lives quickened to better things. We ask in Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Worship*



OUR Father, once more we have journeyed to the temple,<sup>1</sup> with its open courts of welcome, its sweet music of worship, its company of eager children,—both young and old,— listening to words of love, and longing for bread of life. By the presence of Thy Holy Spirit breathe upon our cold lives the warmth of Thy love, Thy mercy, Thy peace. We ask in Jesus' Name.  
*Amen.*



OUR Father, Thou hast made many times and places holy temples of Thy glorious Presence, and all of life a sacrament because of holy fellowship with Thee. Bless to us this place and hour of meeting as we rally our forces and lift up our hearts in worship. Grant us to see the inner light, and to know the hidden secret of Thy grace and truth. In Jesus' Name, we pray. *Amen.*

*Communion Sunday*



OUR Father, Thou Who art invisible and eternal, by some token of Thy Grace reveal unto us, children of a day, Thy glorious presence. Our common needs and our searching hearts unite us in the sacrament of worship. May we hear Thy footsteps on the highway of our devotions, as thou dost mightily walk into our imperfect lives to make them whole. We pray in Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*The Sacrament of Worship*



OUR Father, we thank Thee for the uppermost note in life, the psalmody of love. Our boldest claim is that we are a company of lovers, banded together in worship and service, incapable of defeat and glorying in the impossible, for "love never faileth." Grant, O God, that love may possess our souls like a fortress, dispelling every enemy within and without. Teach us with new insight that love to Thee and to our neighbour is the fulfilment of all the commandments. Endue us with the graces of Thy Spirit, that we may love Thee with our whole heart, and be "kindly affectionate one toward another, with brotherly love, in honour preferring one another." And thus help us to fulfil the law and the prophets, through Jesus Christ, the great and perfect Lover. *Amen.*

*Love*





OUR Father, Who hast called us into the fellowship of Thy Son, draw us closer to Thee in this hour of meditation and communion. May our hearts be open to every holy affection and our minds ready to receive and cherish every sacred truth and serious impression. Enlarge our vision, deepen our loyalty, increase our faith, and enrich us anew with Thy own divine love. We pray in Jesus' Name. *Amen.*



OUR Father, these courts of worship  
once more are the sacred place of our  
spiritual pilgrimage, where fellowship in  
praise and prayer lift us heavenward. Re-  
lease our spirits from the thraldom of care,  
and lift us out of the shadow of things.  
Grant us to know that liberty and freedom  
which open our minds to the truth, the way,  
and the life, enabling us to lay hold of the  
victorious life, in Christ our Lord. We  
pray in Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

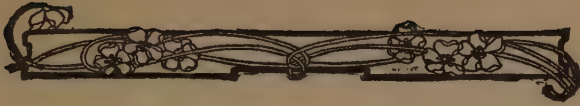
*Spiritual Pilgrimage*



OUR Father, we worship and adore  
Thee, the Fount of all perfection.  
Thou art holy, wise, righteous and merciful,  
and we bring our unworthy lives to Thee,  
our mighty Physician. Fill our minds with  
radiant light, and our hearts with glorious  
power. As Thy beauty is upon us in the  
splendour of autumn, so may Thy Spirit  
clothe us with the strength of fellowship,  
the might of prayer, the inspiration of music,  
and the freedom of Truth. In Jesus' Name.  
*Amen.*



OUR Father, by the heavenly attraction of Thy light and Thy truth, lead us this hour into the quiet places of new-found strength and courage. Give us a clearer vision of Thy will. Awaken our better self to the call of wiser service. Teach us the nobility of following the highest we know, and the best we can dream or dare in faith, hope and love. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*



OUR Father, again we gather on the sacred threshold of holy ground, where mortal men and elusive things are lost sight of in Thy holy Presence, where earth's commonplace is transformed by the touch of heaven. We would "fill the hour with music, with song, and praise and prayer, that the burdens of life may be lifted from all who enter here." As we bow down in humble awe and longing, lift us into Thy gracious circle of love and fellowship. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Holy Ground*



OUR Father, once more we journey into the majestic heavenlies of another Sabbath rest. Each hour is a mansion of glory, each privilege a holy of holies. Grant that we may not mar the sacredness of Thine abode, by lingering in the lowlands of lesser things. May we beautify and adorn life by the touch of things unseen, amid the beauty of holiness. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*The Lord's Day*



OUR Father, overshadow us with Thy gracious Presence, in this banquetting chamber, as we unite our hearts in holy communion. May Thy banner over us be love. Flood our souls with the light of Thy redemptive purposes, that we may share the joys and hopes of the Kingdom. Make our lives conform to Thy will, that the power of the Christ may once more triumphantly claim us for the abundant life. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Communion Sunday*



AS the beauty of the fall is upon us, with its myriad of combinations, in surpassing beauty of colour and design, so, Our Father, would we pray that Thy loveliness may claim our varied lives, and beautify each according to the quality of our worth at the disposal of Thy will. Show us Thy glory, we pray Thee, that we may revel in it, as we do in the manifestations of nature. May the pure air of heavenly places breathe health-giving power and beauty into our depleted and shapeless lives. Out of the fragmentariness of our experiences, so desperately provincial, bring us into the unity of the sons of God. Create within us new harmonies that shall show forth the divinity of our being, and the possibilities of our redeemed natures. We pray in Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Autumn*





ALMIGHTY God, we are again attempting the impossible, but we are constrained to knock and to seek at the chamber door of eternity, if happily we may find Thee. We suffer from a paucity of imagination to compass Thee. We admit our inability of thought to cast its tentacles about Thee; and hence the inadequacy of our words. And yet Thou art here, O God! Help us to extend our quest this hour, that by the sensitiveness of our souls we may know the permeating Presence of Thy Spirit, making us to cry out in gladsome recognition "My Lord and my God!" Take away the dimness of our inner eye, that by the splendour of faith we may detect unfailing reality. And thus moving through all our pulses may there be a richer, deeper, fuller love. Through Christ, our common Master. *Amen.*

*Seeking God*



ETERNAL God, our Father, Who art sensitive to the sight of every hidden mystery, and Who knowest us as an open book, search our hearts this hour with Thy truth, until we shall stand in awe at what we see ourselves to be. May our awakened conscience be as the great, white throne of Thy judgment. And as Thy piercing light reveals our mortal falabilities, hasten to cleanse us of every secret fault. In the measure that we clothe ourselves with the Spirit of Jesus, cause beauty and strength to break forth out of our resolves, our utterances, our actions, our constant walk before men and Thee. Grant us the abiding power and grace of the good and the true. We pray in the Name of our Perfect Example, even Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*The All-seeing God*



**A**LMIGHTY God, our Father, Who hast awakened our hopes and hast quickened our desires to come hither, graciously confirm our eager quest by Thy luminous and evident Presence. As we have met in the visible church, and are gathered about the altar of divine ministry, so help us to venture forth into the invisible sanctuary of spiritual grandeur, and rally about the holy purposes of Thy Kingdom. Beget in us far and flaming visions, strong and daring faiths, great and adequate powers, to glorify the purity of our worship by the nobility of Christlike lives, issuing forth in friendliness and service among men, and in constant fellowship with Thee. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*



THOU, O Lord, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy name." Therefore show us now Thy ways, that we may know Thee better. Take away all our pride and graciously endew us with meekness, that we may humbly crave for the things which Thou hast provided for them that love Thee. Make us to know that the fear of the lord is the beginning of wisdom. As we tarry here wistfully, longingly, hopefully grant us new glimpses of the Gospel that shall find us where we are, carrying us onward, and upward, and forward to where we must arrive by Thy grace. May our fragile enterprise of life be consummately reinforced by spiritual foundations, sturdy in time, and worthy and able to endure for eternity. We pray in the Master's Name. *Amen.*



THOU Spirit of Redemptive Love, Who knowest our heart better than we ourselves, we thank Thee that we can blend so perfectly an abject humility with an utmost boldness, a trembling uncertainty with a complete confidence, as we approach Thee. Such is the uncoined gold in Thy treasuries, that we may hope for redeeming riches untold, as we prove our worthiness. Grant us an increase of inner wealth today,—hope banishing discouragement, faith triumphing over fear, love never-failing, Thou, Thyself, in our hearts as life's supreme treasure. May we keep step with Thee, thus finding day-break everywhere for Christian faith and enduring achievement, bringing us at length possessions imperishable, secured at no less a price than that of the Gift of Him, Who loved us, and loves us still, even Christ, our Saviour. *Amen.*

*Spiritual Treasures*



OUR God, and our Father, we would silence the tumults of this boisterous world, without and within us, that in the secret place of the Most High we may abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Through the holy hush of this temple whisper Thy counsel whereby we may find sustaining courage, fortitude, fidelity and purity of thought to strengthen and control our lives. Let Thy mercy rise up and overshadow our offences, as our devotions become fruitful with the graces of a contrite heart, a purged will, a redirected life in keeping with the Spirit of our Master. Grant that our united aspirations may lead each of us to honestly pray "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts. And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." We pray through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*



OUR Father, Who hast made us for a habitation of Thy Spirit, Thou dost know what disfigurement evil has wrought within us. We bless Thee for these courts of purity, this fellowship of highmindedness in Christ and this atmosphere of edification. Here will we wait for Thee. Quicken our spiritual pulse with vital experiences of true religion. It may be through the still, small voice; or by the conscious submersion in Thy oceanic love; or by confronting the appalling majesty of Thy power; or by flashes of Thy truth like a scimiter in the sunlight. By whatever means is best, call us back from the lapses of our high estate to renew our covenant with Thee. Heal us, O Lord, and we shall be healed; save us and we shall be saved; turn us unto Thee, and we shall be turned, until at last we shall all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. *Amen.*



OUR Father, "Who hast folded back the mantle of the night to clothe us in the golden glory of the day," enlighten our minds with the rays of the everlasting Gospel. "In Thy light may we see light," that the shadows upon our ways may be dispelled by the Sun of Righteousness. Impart vision to our groping minds, that by the brightness of truth we may see our paths clearly, leading us into the highways of certain duty, definite direction, and a secure destiny. We pray in the Name of Him "that lighteth every man unto the perfect day," even Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

*Light*





OUR Father, we thank Thee for the treasures hidden in the field of humble toil and common days. The week past has given us surprising revelations in our daily life, in the grip of men and things. Break through the silences of this hour, O God, and reveal unto us disclosures of infinitely richer meaning than the world can afford. May Thy word and Spirit quicken us by wistful suggestions, sure promises, definite strength and stimulated faith. Encourage our initiative to do and dare in the quest of life's ever broadening opportunities, and in the service of Thy Kingdom! In Jesus' Name, *Amen.*



OUR Father, in Whose grace all our light is born, and in Whose love is the font of our festivity, mercifully lead us into the holy mysteries of the Christmastide. Grant us to know true and searching, inward preparation for the coming of the King. In the open-heartedness of our needy lives, bring us into the eternal things of this blessed season. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Advent*



OUR Father, Who hast honored us with the unspeakable Gift of Jesus Christ, grant us grace to worthily remember Him in this sacramental hour. May the spirit of this joyful season suffuse our communion meditations with compelling assurance, and contagious gladness. Grant that our worship may be bathed in the glow of such inner light and vital truth that shall inspire our devotions, irradiate our conscience and enkindle our love. Prepare each one of us for the genuine Christmas event, as the increase of knowledge of Thy truth, and the Spirit of Christ may be confirmed in us through holy desires, lovable attitudes and righteous dealings. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*Second Sunday in Advent*



OUR Father, Who from the foundation of the ages hast prepared for our present and eternal happiness, grant us wisdom and willingness to make preparations to receive Thine unspeakable Gift. As the spirit of the Yuletide has taken possession of the workshop and market place, to supply the Christmas of a thousand packages, of hurried and worried people, so may the vital and unseen influences of the silent night, and the angel song, and the Christ-child claim us. May the Christmas of the ceaseless spirit of love, peace and good-will wholly possess us, to the honour and glory of Christ, Who comes to reign in our hearts. In His Name. Amen.

*Third Sunday in Advent*



OUR Father, as we are caught up in the spirit of the happiest day of the long year, and the greatest event of all history, may we hear the uppermost note amid the universal and pervading happiness: "Behold! I bring you good tidings of great joy; unto you is born this day a Saviour." May the light of the star and candles, the caroling of angels and children, the ringing, festive music of the great organs and choirs, the supreme Gift of Heaven, and the remembrances of men extend the reign of peace, and bring nearer the empire of love. Accept our lowly but sincere adoration, as we gather about the manger-throne to offer homage unto the King of kings and Lord of lords, even Jesus Christ, our Saviour. *Amen.*

*Christmas*



LORD, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." Yea, under Thy watchful eye, Our Father, have we entered and ended another span of time. Thou hast beset us behind, and before, and all around. Forgive our lack of insight and understanding, our fear and complaining in the hidden ways and dark hours, when we cried like infants in the night. Bless us, on the eve of a new year, with a sense of proportion and perspective, that in the rehearsal of the months gone by we may remember Thee overtopping and outreaching all else. Most of all, help us, O God, to string all our vital experiences upon a golden thread of remembrance, that they may be as a rosary awakening and directing our thoughts heavenward, in the paths of reverent thanksgiving and praise. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

*At the Year's End*

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